



STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY  
Oil, Gas & Mining

Scott M. Matheson, Governor  
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director  
Cleon B. Feight, Division Director

4241 State Office Building • Salt Lake City, UT 84114 • 801-533-5771

April 22, 1982

REGISTERED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Richard Broschat  
Atlas Minerals  
Big Indian Mines  
La Sol, Utah 84530

RE: Far West Mine  
ACT/037/019  
Revegetation Test Plot  
and Research Proposal

Dear Rick:

As you know, the April 7, 1982 visit served as an inspection for the Far West Mine to satisfy requirements of Rule M-7 of the Mined Land Reclamation Act, Title 40-8, U.C.A. 1953. During the inspection two problem areas were noted for which corrective action needs to be taken.

The first is an item about which you have been notified on February 25, 1982 by the State Department of Health. It concerns the drop drain that carries oils and solvents from the pad where equipment is washed directly into an ephemeral drainage by way of a culvert. Direct discharges of oil, solvents or contaminated waste water were never indicated to be a part of the operational mine plan nor are they to be permitted. A copy of the disposal plan requested by the Department of State Health should be delivered to the Division within ten days of receipt of this letter. Results of test analyses run on these discharges should be submitted also in order to determine the quality and subsequent possibility of continued discharge. Further pollutants should not be discharged until their toxicity has been determined.

The second problem area of concern is the trash dump or garbage canyon-storage area (Coyote Wash?). There again is no indication in the mine plan that this type of activity was ever included in the original design or subsequent amendments. The site visit revealed that the ephemeral drainage channels in this area are not clear of debris, parts or trash. These channels should be cleaned and all refuse trucked off-site to a land fill, if possible. If this is not possible in the immediate future, the trash should be consolidated in the middle of the canyon to minimize disturbance. It is imperative that all drainages be made free flowing and uncontaminated. A suggested avenue to pursue for eventual and complete removal of material is to investigate the possibility of using the abandoned copper pits in the area for disposal and to work in conjunction with other companies and state agencies to determine this feasibility. I do not think it unreasonable to plan for this contingent action.

Mr. Richard Broschat  
ACT/037/019  
April 21, 1982  
Page Two

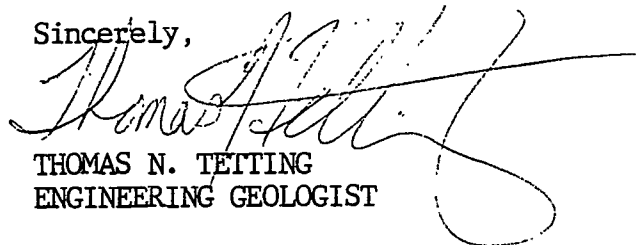
Another matter that has come to my attention is the schedule for Atlas' revegetation test plot plans. Originally submitted to the Division in June of 1981 and approved in July of the same year, the design called for site preparation including soil analysis to begin in early summer of 1981 followed by layout and seeding later in the fall of that year. I now understand that this has not occurred. A question comes to mind as to why this should not have taken place and as to whether this is the usual policy concerning Atlas' commitments.

A response was never made to the Division's reply of July 14, 1981 regarding the approval of this matter including suggestions for additional improvements to the original design plan. It is hereby requested that a 1982 schedule for implementation of this revegetation plan be submitted to the Division and adhered to, including a response to our suggestions. Any further delays in the development of this plan may constitute direct and flagrant violation of several of Atlas Minerals' current mine contracts as well as of the Mined Land Reclamation Act. Further postponement must be avoided to maintain an adequate basis for continuing discussions over the new Atlas Contract proposal.

Please contact me for any additional information regarding these matters or to pursue a solution in the shortest possible time.

Based upon the response to these concerns the Division will agree that an additional two-year suspension for the Far West Mine be implemented.

Sincerely,



THOMAS N. TETTING  
ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST

cc: James Holtkamp, Atlas Attorney, SLC  
Calvin Sudweeks, State Health Department

TNT/cp